

THE PACIFIC Commercial Advertiser

WALTER G. SMITH - EDITOR.
MONDAY FEBRUARY 11

These are the days which make one thankful for the price cut in rubber goods.

From the way General Aguinaldo has been hiding he would probably prefer Bob's gas tank to his "sword."

Let us remark in passing that those Federal suits against Hawaiian land transfers are still more dangerous at the breech than at the muzzle.

Delegate Wilcox and the Princess do not lack for advertising but we are still waiting for the Washington article that will tell of services rendered by the Delegate to Hawaii.

Bryan will not regret his loss of the Presidential salary when he comes to count his newspaper gains. Already he is assured of more than \$50,000 income. Four years hence, if the paper keeps up its money-making lick, the Peerless will stand among the Plutocrats and the Populists will mourn for their first born.

George Q. Cannon tells the Utah saints that the native people here wanted to worship him. If they did they kept a knowledge of it away from the sight of all but the inspired Cannon himself. The time has long since passed when the natives made a god of the visiting white man and as for Cannon they did not even give him a hokopu.

The excessive rain has the advantage of keeping the forests free from fire. Last winter fires on the uplands did much damage on several of the Islands; and during a dry spell a few weeks ago quite a blaze started above Pacific Heights. As things are now it is barely practicable to keep a fire going in a kitchen stove. Wet as the town may be, the woodlands are wetter yet and are not only safe from the stray spark but are fast repairing the ravages of former fires.

The weird tales about Col. Roosevelt's hunting adventures do not originate with Roosevelt's party but with two or three Bohemian journalists who have put up at a telegraph station twenty miles away. These men cannot get in touch with Col. Roosevelt but being gifted with powerful imaginations they have put startling bulletins on the wires almost daily. Once they had the Colonel nearly killed by a bear, then he was in jeopardy with mountain lions, again he was treed by wolves. As for Roosevelt himself no one is said to have had word from him or in any authentic way about him.

BRYAN'S PAPER OUT.

A Lincoln, Neb., dispatch says that Mr. Bryan's paper appeared on January 23. The leading editorial was in explanation of why the Commoner was selected as the name of the paper.

It is stated that a commoner is one of the common people, and Scripture is quoted to prove that no higher compliment can be paid to any class. The common people, the editor says, are not exclusive. Any man who is willing to contribute by brain or muscle to the nation's strength and greatness can become a member. He concludes:

"A rich man, who has honestly acquired his wealth and is not afraid to intrust its care to laws made by his fellows, can count himself among the common people, while a poor man is not really one of them if he fawns before a plutocrat and has no higher ambition than to be a courtier or a sycophant. The Commoner will be satisfied if, by fidelity to the common people, it proves its right to the name which has been chosen."

Under the heading, "A Living Fountain," Mr. Bryan deprecates the tendency of the people to turn toward the "once discarded doctrine of empire." He says: "When the people are recognized as the source of power the Government is perpetual, because the people endure forever. The Government then responds to their desires and conforms to their character; it can be made as good as they deserve to have, they are satisfied with it because it is their own handiwork. If it has evils, those evils are endured because the people recognize that they themselves are to blame and that it is within their power to apply any needed remedy."

"A Government resting on force is, on the other hand, ever unstable, because it excites hatred rather than affection and is continually at war with human nature; it is in constant antagonism to that universal sentiment which is defined as the love of liberty."

One whole page is devoted to editorial paragraphs of the snappy character. These are very good examples of the Bryan style of campaign repartee.

Under the head of "Questionable Appointments," Editor Bryan severely criticizes the President. He characterizes the appointment of the sons of Justices Harlan and McKenna as "direct blows at the dignity and independence of the court, and the silence observed by members of the dominant party shows how imperialism and commercialism are paralyzing the conscience of the Republican leaders."

Another editorial is devoted to pointing out that liberal pensions are not possible in a country with a large military establishment.

The silver question receives the dignity of a column editorial directed at what is referred to as "Secretary Gage's endless chain," presented in his recommendation for redemption of silver dollars in gold on demand. He looks upon this as the first step toward the retirement of the silver dollar on the plea that it can be used to drain the Treasury of gold.

Mr. Bryan takes pains to explain that the Commoner is not a rival of the local weekly papers, nor is it intended to take the place of the National Watchman. The reader is urged to take some paper that is published at home and that paper which supports the policies he believes in.

"The Commoner will not enter the field of general news," it is stated, "but as an exponent of Democratic sentiment and a defender of Jeffersonian principles it hopes to make itself useful. If the reader does not find in the Commoner everything he wants, it is hoped that he will find enough to justify him in welcoming it to his home."

MUD FOR THE SICK BED.

The "chivalry" which shoots an unarmed man because he has resented insults to helpless women, does not hesitate to annoy him as he lies on a bed of suffering. Both papers controlled by Judge Humphreys have disgraced themselves within the last few days by making a jest of poor Stevens' wounds. The Bulletin, which is the most pusillanimous paper of the two, has published the following, in the evident belief that by doing so it would best please Humphreys:

The Advertiser fails to explain the degree of law and order exemplified by "a football player, a high diver, a crack cyclist, a remarkable broad jumper and also a hurdler, etc., etc., etc." who went out looking for a fight, struck the first blow and then when he got the worst of it yelled for help. The effort to martyrize the young man meets with most abject failure.

The Republican refers with a smirk of self-satisfaction to the fate which befel his editor of the Advertiser's bouncer in the editorial rooms of this paper Wednesday night.

This engaging sentiment, which does not attempt to conceal the satisfaction felt by Mr. Gill—or "General" Gill, as he headlined himself a few weeks ago—that he had tried to kill his man here as well as in Arizona, is coupled with praise of what he calls his own "chivalry and brave and Christian manhood."

The most culpable feature of this newspaper campaign against the young man who blood was split because he would not stand idly by and hear a filthy jest about defenseless women, is the favor it has from Humphreys, the notorious judge of the First District Court. Of Humphreys' criminal record we shall have something to say later on; it will suffice now to point him out as the one who is inspiring these daily attacks upon poor Stevens. Was there ever on the bench of any civilized country a more indecent spectacle than this Arizona refugee presents? He not only keeps Gill red-handed in control of his morning paper and permits him to insult men whose boots he is not worthy to black, but he lets both his papers mock the poor fellow whom his protegee had tried to murder. And this creature also calls himself chivalrous and pretends to be a gentleman! Honolulu now knows that Humphreys is the veriest cad who ever carried the mire of fraud and the smell of cheap rascality into the courts of justice; and all the high pretences he makes and all the borrowed tael he shows, will never take the eye of the public away from the black and bloody stains upon his moral character.

THE VENEZUELAN TROUBLE.

According to Joseph L. Morton, who has been investigating the trouble between Americans and Venezuelans, the facts about the affair are as follows: About twelve years ago a great American asphalt company, now known as the New York and Bermudez Company and as the "asphalt trust," obtained from the Venezuelan Government the exclusive right for twenty-five years of working the asphalt deposits. These are situated in the state of Bermudez, in the northeastern part of Venezuela, and are the largest and most valuable deposits of this paving material in the world, being several times as great as the famous lake on the island of Trinidad. For twelve years this company has taken out the asphalt, and it recently erected there the largest asphalt refining works in the world. This company has had the monopoly of the business and contends that its title to the asphalt lakes is perfectly good.

There is in existence, however, an old concession whose date seems to be uncertain to some native capitalists and promoters which gives to them the right to work the most valuable part of the asphalt mine of the company. This would, of course, if enforced, work great injury to the "trust" and destroy its monopoly. The natives sold this concession to a new American syndicate, and the dispute between the two Yankee companies is the cause of the trouble. The old company has the advantage of possession, with about 1,000 armed employees to help it stay. The new company has the enormous advantage of having President Castro, which means the Venezuelan Government, on its side. The case is now pending before the Venezuelan Supreme Court, which it is expected will run counter to the President and confirm the New York and Bermudez Company in its claim. On the other hand, it is reported on the best authority that Castro is about to annul its concession. So, speaking simply, the whole question is, which concession is the valid one?

The Venezuelan Government has just had on its hands another of the periodic South American "revolutions," which has further complicated the asphalt situation. The "revolution," however, has about petered out, as they generally do, and President Castro is free to take whatever action he pleases in the matter. There is a well defined fear that he contemplates using the forces of the republic to oust the New York and Bermudez Company. As they are American citizens, this would be a breach of international peace and might lead to the gravest results. It is scarcely thought, however, that President Castro will go to such extremes. General Francis V. Greene of New York is president of the New York and Bermudez Company.

SAMPSON AND SCHLEY.

Congress shows no signs as yet of a purpose to deal fairly by the men who brought the Spanish war to a triumphant close. What has been done goes to reward Dewey and his men at Manila; but great as their achievements were they were not comparable to those of Sampson and Schley in destroying the real sea power of Spain and opening the route to Cuba so that the United States could pour its armies into the island without hindrance by a hostile fleet.

Very likely Congress would have rewarded the Santiago heroes had it not been for the unfortunate quarrel between the friends of Sampson and Schley—a quarrel that has kept back promotion for most of the naval worthies, including Hobson, and has even retarded that of General Shafter, commander of the victorious land forces. It is time, however, that this bar was removed and that the men who have so illuminated the flag should not be without honor in their own country.

The easiest way out would seem to be to create two offices of Vice Admiral and give them to Sampson and Schley in the order named. There is nothing unusual in having the office of Vice Admiral conferred upon more than one

man at a time. It is done in European navies, particularly that of Great Britain, and it is as defensible as is the appointment of more than one Rear Admiral. Our fleet is growing so large that officers of Vice Admiral rank will be needed to command its most important sub-divisions. The Admiral does not go to sea except in times of special emergency; Vice Admirals are needed to represent him on great occasions in time of peace; there should always be one such officer afloat in the Atlantic and another in the Pacific. If Congress shall take this view of the case the quarrel between Sampson and Schley will end at once. Hobson will go up and all hands will get the honor they have won.

As matters stand the half truth in the phrase that republics are ungrateful has a marked illustration.

Mrs. Nation at the Bar.

Dame Nation of red Kansas By all her ribbons swore That her bewhiskered neighbors Should quench their thirst no more! She smashed a glass and chewed it, And spat the pieces out And tore out bunches of her hair And flung them forth upon the air And fiercely danced about.

East and west and north and south She ran with all her might, And never did a maddened cow Present so fierce a sight! Shame on the Kansas woman Who sits at home and croons A lullaby when she might be Demolishing saloons!

The bourbon and the lager Are pouring out amain From "Frank's Buffet" and "George's Place," To irrigate the plain: And many a costly mirror Is cracked in forty ways, And all her actions are designed To frighten and amaze.

Decrepit folk on crutches And laughing maids and men Behold her smash the windows, And cry, "Go in again!" She grasps the shameful painting That hangs above the bar And tears it into little bits And scatters them afar.

And, screaming in her anger, She spies a demijohn, And, as the fearful tiger Springs on the helpless fawn She takes it in her clutches And bites it full of holes! The man who tends the bar and he Knocks down with bricks and things and leaps Across their cowering forms and heaps Her curses on their souls.

The Sheriff hurries forward And bids her cease a space; She pulls his ears and weakens his nose And roughly slaps his face! She rips the bar to pieces And knocks out all the bungs And, round about, five hundred men Stand with protruding tongues.

She grasps the tall cop's whiskers Within her goody clutch, And pulls them from his system And whoops to beat the Dutch! Her hands are full of splinters, She feels them not nor cares, But keeps right on proceeding To regulate affairs.

And when her work is ended The men who stand around And, sighing, see her eat the hoops By which the casks were bound, Speed off in all directions And thank their lucky stars That they may still get thirsty And drink at other bars.

Ah, may her music ever Bulge till her fight is won, For oh, I wot she'll need a lot Before the job is done! Hurrah for Mrs. Nation— Ten thousand times hurrah! For her who in her good right hand Can swing the fearsome brickbat And herself become the law! —Chicago Times-Herald.

What's the Use?

What's the use of fretting? Things will turn out right, If the morn is cloudy, Evenin' will be bright; Don't waste time a-grievin', Joy-bells soon will chime, Walk right in the sunshine, Smilin' all the time.

What's the use of frettin' If a thing goes wrong? You can't help it anyhow, Keep a-puttin' on, While you stand a-thinkin' What you might have done, You're a-shirkin' duty— Likewise lots of fun.

What's the use of frettin'? Oh, the world is good! Go an' share its beauty— If you knew you would; Flowers an' birds an' sunshine, Raindrops fallin' fast, Greet them all as brothers, Let the past be past. H. M. AYRES.

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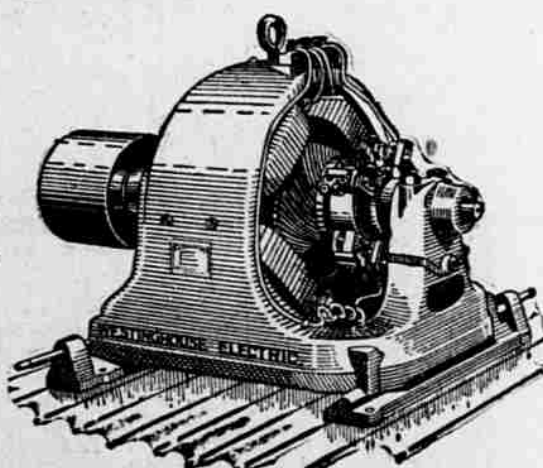
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